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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/904,309      | 07/12/2001  | Ron Malhotra         |                     | 2089             |

7590 09/22/2004

Jean-Marc Zimmerman  
226 St. Paul Street  
Westfield, NJ 07090

EXAMINER\

TRINH, TAN H

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2684

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/904,309

Applicant(s)

MALHOTRA, RON

Examiner

TAN TRINH

Art Unit

2684

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 21-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pan (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,764) in view of Nguyen (U.S. Patent No. 6,272,328).

Regarding claims 21 and 30, Pan teaches a device for hands-free operation of a mobile telephone (see fig. Figs. 4A-D), comprising: a signal propagator having a first end and a second end (see fig. Figs. 4A-D), the first connector coupled to the first end and which is configured for a mobile telephone (see fig. Figs. 4A-D); and hands-free amplifier (see fig. 2a, pre-amplifier 12) coupled to the first connector for amplifying a signal received by the mobile telephone (see figs 2A-B); and a second connector coupled to the second end which is configured to couple to vehicle power source outlet (see fig. Figs. 4A-D), the second connector transmits the amplified signal through the vehicle amplifier (see fig. 4a, car audio amplifier 24) for broadcast over a vehicle audio speaker thereby enabling the driver to hear the signal without having to hold the mobile telephone (see fig. 4a-d, and col. 1, line 57-col. 2, line 54). But Pan fails to teach the second connector transmits the amplified signal through the vehicle power source outlet.

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However, Nguyen teaches the second connector transmits the amplified signal through the vehicle power source outlet (see fig. 1, the second connector 30 transmits the amplified signal through the vehicle power source outlet 20, and col. 2, line 63-col. 3, line 38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Pan system and by the teaching of Nguyen on the transmission of the audio signal on the DC power line technique thereto in order to allow an audio signal from auxiliary audio source to be modulated into the operational RF band of the vehicle tuner (see col. 3, lines 6-10).

Regarding claims 22 and 31, Pan teaches wherein the second end is a cigarette lighter adapter plug (see figs 2a-b, car cigarette lighter 10 and cigarette lighter adapter plug 17).

Regarding claims 23 and 32, Pan teaches wherein the plug is coupled to an automobile cigarette lighter outlet (see figs 2a-b, car cigarette lighter 10 and cigarette lighter adapter plug 17).

Regarding claims 24 and 33, Nguyen teaches wherein the signal propagator transmits the amplified signal to the automobile amplifier at a frequency of 88.7 Mhz through the vehicle power source outlet (see fig. 1, the second connector 30 transmits the amplified signal through the vehicle power source outlet 20, and col. 2, line 63-col. 3, line 38 and col. 3, lines 50-53).

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Regarding claims 25 and 34, Nguyen teaches wherein the signal propagator transmits the amplified signal to the automobile amplifier at a frequency of 106.5 Mhz through the vehicle power source outlet (see fig. 1, the second connector 30 transmits the amplified signal through the vehicle power source outlet 20, and col. 2, line 63-col. 3, line 38 and col. 3, lines 50-53).

Regarding claim 26, Pan teaches wherein the automobile amplifier amplifies the amplified signal and broadcasts the signal over the automobile speaker (see col. 7, lines 32-53).

Regarding claims 27 and 35, Pan teaches wherein the device includes a microphone that detects a word spoken by the driver, thereby enabling the driver to speak over the mobile telephone without holding the mobile telephone (see fig. 2a, condense microphone 6 and voice activation 15, col. 4, lines 54-63).

Regarding claims 28 and 36, Pan teaches wherein the hands-free amplifier amplifies the word spoken by the driver and transmits the word over the signal propagator to the mobile telephone (see fig. 2a, condense microphone 6, pre-amplifier and voice activation 15, col. 4, lines 54-63, col. 1, lines 57-67).

Regarding claims 29 and 37, Pan teaches wherein the mobile telephone then transmits the signal to another telephone (see col. 4, lines 54-63, col. 1, lines 57-67).

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

5. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314, (for Technology Center 2600 only)**

*Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II,  
2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).*

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tan Trinh whose telephone number is (703) 305-5622. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay Maung, can be reached at (703) 308-7745.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-0377**.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tan H. Trinh  
Art Unit 2684  
September 9, 2004

  
**NICK CORSARO**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**